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I am not in agreement with the proposal presented in Case 3188. Instead, I favour conservation of the name *N. cupriacella* (Hübner, 1819) for the species that feeds on *Scabiosa* and *Succissa* by designation of a neotype as suggested by Kozlev (BZN 59: 32) and outlined in detail by van Nieukerken in comment (1) above. The spirit of the current Code does not support the suppression of a well understood name just because it may now be applied to a taxon other than that to which it was originally applied. Suppression of the name *N. cupriacella* would not be in the best interests of nomenclatural stability.

Comment on the proposed conservation of usage of the names *Phymaturus* Gravenhorst, 1837 and *Lacerta palluma* Molina, 1782 (currently *Phymaturus palluma*; Reptilia, Sauria) by designation of a neotype for *Lacerta palluma* Molina, 1782

(Case 3225; see BZN 60: 38–41)

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As a physical ecologist who studies *Phymaturus* lizards, I give my full support to this application. The unique biology of the lizards belonging to the genus *Phymaturus* Gravenhorst, 1837 and, in particular, the species currently known as *Phymaturus palluma* (Molina, 1782) is of great interest to physiologists, ecologists and behaviorists for a number of reasons. First, this species is herbivorous. As such, it occupies a trophic niche that is rarely exploited by modern reptiles and is virtually unknown among the smaller species (i.e. those with a body mass less than 40 g) such as *Phymaturus*. Second, the species currently known as *Phymaturus palluma* is viviparous (gives birth to live young) with an extraordinarily large offspring clutch mass relative to the body mass of the female. Third, females of this species appear to form close and lasting post-birth associations with their offspring (i.e. parental care), which is also quite rare among squamate reptiles. Finally, *Phymaturus palluma* lives in an extreme biotope at high elevations (to 4000 m) and under very dry conditions (less than 200 mm precipitation per year). This species has already been a focal point of numerous ecophysiological studies and will be the subject of many other research projects, allowing the investigation of phenomena not previously studied in squamate reptiles.

For these reasons it is imperative that the current usage of these names is conserved and stability established. The confusion of names in the literature caused by the actions by Cei, Lescure and Veloso et al. in various papers has already caused problems in communication and information retrieval. I urge the Commission to rule in favour of conserving the current usage of the names *Phymaturus* Gravenhorst, 1837 and *Phymaturus palluma* (Molina, 1782) by designation of a neotype for *Lacerta palluma* Molina, 1782.